

Media, PA— Congressman Joe Sestak (D-PA) spoke at the 230th Anniversary celebration of the Battle of Brandywine, located at the Brandywine Battlefield Historic Site in Chadds Ford Township. He presented a statement to be placed into Congressional Record and requested Presidential Citation to commemorate 230th battle anniversary. — “I am proud to be part of the 230th anniversary of the historic Battle of Brandywine. The Battle of Brandywine has a significant place in American history. It demonstrated America’s resilience and determination to preserve freedom and liberty for our nation during the Revolutionary War,” said Congressman Sestak.

The Brandywine event included a full battle re-enactment, a memorial service for de Marquis de Lafayette, and held a 21 gun salute and a dove release in honor of our veterans.

The occasion also marked the 250th birthday of Marquis de Lafayette, a decorated French military officer who played key roles in both the American and French revolutions, including during the Battle of Brandywine, the largest single day battle of the American War for Independence.

During the campaign of 1777, British General Sir William Howe was determined to invade and capture Philadelphia, the newly formed capital of the United States and one of the largest cities in the colonies. The British approached Philadelphia from the Chesapeake, and after unsuccessful skirmishes around Wilmington, Delaware, Washington took up defensive positions around Chadds Ford to stop the British advance. Chadds Ford allowed safe and easy passage of the Brandywine River to Philadelphia, and General George Washington placed his troops along the Brandywine River to guard the main fords, or shallow places, where the river could be crossed. However, superior tactics by the British allowed them to prevail in this difficult and single largest battle of the Revolutionary War.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking

former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.